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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT AND THE OLYMPIC IDEAL

Solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 11 July 1996 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce

The President of the General Assembly has the honour to make the following solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce:

"On 7 November 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/13, by which it called upon Member States to reaffirm the observance of the Olympic Truce during each Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

"The Olympic Truce, or ekecheria, is based on an ancient Greek tradition, dating back to the ninth century B.C. All conflicts ceased during the period of the Truce, which began seven days prior to the opening of the Olympic Games and ended on the seventh day following the closing of the Games, so that athletes, artists, their relatives and pilgrims could travel safely to the Olympic Games and afterwards return to their countries.

"Valiant attempts have consistently been made by the United Nations in an effort to bring peace and stability to the troubled regions of the world. Still new concepts are needed for dealing with strife.

"I solemnly appeal to all States to observe the Olympic Truce during the games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, to be held at Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, from 19 July to 4 August 1996, and to strive towards building lasting peace, whether or not they are now parties to a confrontation. I urge us all to place at the forefront of our

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thoughts and actions the principles and ideals which the ekecheria and the Olympic Movement seek to propagate. By applying the principle of the ekecheria, the world can at least hope for some respite, however temporary, from the killing and destruction which accompany conflict. I therefore appeal to those now engaged in armed struggles to uphold this principle and suspend hostilities in keeping with its observance."

In order for the General Assembly to take note of the solemn appeal, it will be necessary to reopen agenda item 40.